

Translating Research into Practice

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There is economic, social, and medical sense in maximizing the use we make of our scientific advances. Yet, there is an often-lamented gap between support for successful research-based cancer prevention and control interventions and the subsequent translation of these interventions into practice. Closing that gap would considerably enhance the return on our national research investment.

In a series of ground-breaking articles in 1998, the *British Medical Journal* explored a variety of topics designed to bridge the gap between evidence and practice. One of the themes in this series was the need for specific, measurable criteria upon which to identify research that was ready for translation into practice. Among the criteria discussed were a specified need for the intervention tested in the research; the existence of prior research to support the likelihood of success; the anticipated population effect; target population access, cost, and delivery channel availability; and degree of risk, among others. This presentation will discuss a range of criteria that researchers and practitioners may consider when evaluating the appropriateness of a given body of research to be translated into practice.